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The situation in the Middle East

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Identical letters dated 20 May 2009 from the Permanent Representative of Lebanon to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

On instructions from my Government, I would like to bring to your attention recent Israeli violations of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006) in the form of a string of Israeli spying networks inside Lebanon that threaten the peace and security of Lebanon and undermine stability and the prospects for peace in the Middle East.

- On 18 May 2009, Hanna Tanous Al Kazzi of Lebanon, charged with spying for Israel, escaped along with his family from South Lebanon into Israel. The family illegally crossed the Blue Line and the technical fence with the assistance of the Israeli army.
- On 17 May 2009, Elie Toufic Al Hayek of Lebanon, charged with spying for Israel, escaped from South Lebanon into Israel. Mr. Hayek illegally crossed the Blue Line and the technical fence with the assistance of the Israeli army.
- On 16 May 2009, Nasser Mahmoud Nader and his wife Nawal Georges Maalouf of Lebanon were arrested in South Lebanon and Mount Lebanon respectively on charges of spying for Israel. Both possessed a variety of sophisticated communication and electronic equipment.
- On 16 May 2009, Ziad Ahmed El-Homssi of Lebanon, charged with spying for Israel, was arrested in the Bekaa region and is currently under interrogation.
- On 13 May 2009, Gerges Elias Farah of Lebanon was arrested in South Lebanon on charges of spying for Israel. Mr. Farah possessed a big cache of explosives and a variety of sophisticated communication and electronic equipment. He is currently under interrogation.
- On 12 May 2009, a Lebanese charged with spying for Israel was arrested in South Lebanon and is currently under interrogation.
- On 11 May 2009, a network composed of two Lebanese spying for Israel was discovered simultaneously in Beirut and South Lebanon. The spies escaped to

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an unknown destination. They left behind a variety of sophisticated communication and electronic equipment and photographic devices.

- On 8 May 2009, Hassan Ahmed Chehab of Lebanon was arrested in South Lebanon. Mr. Chehab confessed to spying for Israel, including identifying and locating various geographic coordinates of sensitive Lebanese positions and locations in South Lebanon for the interest of Israel. The arrestee provided Israel with information about important Lebanese personalities in South Lebanon. Previously, he had entered Israel, where he received training. He possessed a variety of sophisticated communication and electronic equipment and photographic devices.

- On 7 May 2009, two Lebanese individuals, Rizk Toufic Ibrahim and his son Kamil Rizk Ibrahim, charged with spying for Israel, escaped from Lebanon into Israel. The family illegally crossed the Blue Line and the technical fence with the assistance of the Israeli army.

- On 4 May 2009, Hassan Mohamed Yassin of Lebanon was arrested in South Lebanon. Mr. Yassin confessed to spying for Israel, including identifying and locating various geographic coordinates of sensitive Lebanese positions and locations in South Lebanon for the interest of Israel. The arrestee had provided Israel with information about important Lebanese personalities in South Lebanon. Previously, he had entered Israel, where he received training. He possessed a variety of sophisticated communication and electronic equipment and photographic devices.

- On 29 April 2009, Haytham Rajeh Al-Sahmarani of Lebanon, a member of the Lebanese Internal Security Forces, and his wife were arrested in Mount Lebanon. They confessed to spying for Israel, including identifying and locating various geographic coordinates of sensitive Lebanese positions and locations in the southern suburb of Beirut for the interest of Israel. Previously, the arrestees had provided Israel with information about important Lebanese personalities in the southern suburb of Beirut. They had also entered Israel illegally. Both possessed a variety of sophisticated communication and electronic equipment and photographic devices.

- On 25 April 2009, a Palestinian, Mohamed Ibrahim Awad, and a Lebanese, Robert Edmond Kfoury, were arrested in Sidon city and South Lebanon respectively. They confessed to spying for Israel, including identifying and locating various geographic coordinates of sensitive Lebanese positions and locations in South Lebanon for the interest of Israel. Previously, the arrestees had provided Israel with information about important Lebanese personalities in South Lebanon. They had also entered Israel illegally. Both possessed a variety of sophisticated communication and electronic equipment and photographic devices.

- On 25 April 2009, Ali Hussein Mantach of Lebanon was arrested in South Lebanon. Mr. Mantach confessed to spying for Israel, including identifying and locating various geographic coordinates of sensitive Lebanese positions and locations in South Lebanon for the interest of Israel. Previously, the arrestee had provided Israel with information about important Lebanese personalities in South Lebanon. He had also entered Israel illegally. He

possessed a variety of sophisticated communication and electronic equipment and photographic devices.

- On 15 April 2009, Joseph Semaan El-Aalam of Lebanon, a member of the Lebanese General Security, was arrested in South Lebanon. The arrestee confessed to spying for Israel.

- On 11 April 2009, Adib Assaad El-Aalam of Lebanon, a retired General of the General Security, and his wife Hayat Kozhaya El-Saloumi were arrested in Mount Lebanon. They confessed to spying for Israel. Both had previously entered Israel, where they received training. The arrestees possessed a variety of sophisticated communication and electronic equipment and photographic devices.

- On 10 February 2009, Marwan Kamel El-Fakih of Lebanon was arrested in South Lebanon. Mr. El-Fakih confessed to spying for Israel, including providing Israel with information about important Lebanese personalities. Previously, the arrestee had identified and located various geographic coordinates of sensitive positions and locations of the Lebanese Army and the Lebanese Internal Security Forces for the interest of Israel. He had also entered Israel illegally. The arrestee possessed a variety of sophisticated communication and electronic equipment and photographic devices.

- On 25 October 2008, two Lebanese individuals, Ali Dib El-Jarrah and Youssef Dib El-Jarrah, were arrested in the Bekaa region. They confessed to spying for Israel, including identifying and locating various geographic coordinates of sensitive Lebanese positions and locations for the interest of Israel. Also, they had previously entered Israel illegally. Both possessed a variety of sophisticated communication and electronic equipment and photographic devices.

- On 7 June 2006, Mahmoud Kassem Rafea of Lebanon, a veteran of the Lebanese Internal Security Forces, was arrested in South Lebanon. Mr. Rafea confessed to spying for Israel, including direct involvement in multiple crimes of assassination. These crimes include the assassination of Mahmoud Mohamed Al-Majzoub, his brother, Nidal Mohamed Al-Majzoub, Ali Hassan Dib, Jihad Ahmad Jibreel and Ali Houssein Saleh. Previously, the arrestee had identified and located various geographic coordinates of sensitive Lebanese positions and locations for the interest of Israel. He had also entered Israel illegally. The arrestee possessed a variety of sophisticated communication and electronic equipment and photographic devices.

The above-mentioned spying activities constitute, as explained in your latest report on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1559 (2004) (S/2009/218), a violation of Lebanon's sovereignty.

These Israeli actions are yet another reminder of Israel's hostility towards Lebanon. They are aimed at destabilizing Lebanon and threatening its security. Furthermore, they threaten peace and stability throughout the region and add to existing tensions at a time when serious efforts are being exerted to achieve a comprehensive, just and durable peace.

Through its spying networks, Israel seeks to create separate terrorist cells that operate independently inside Lebanon. These cells plan and carry out hostile

activities within Lebanon, including the monitoring and targeting of Lebanese people and infrastructure and the relay of sensitive information.

The Israeli actions are flagrant and blatant violations of the sovereignty of Lebanon and of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006), including the line of withdrawal, in defiance of the calls of your good self and those of the Security Council.

The Lebanese Army has protested to the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) the Israeli spying activities in Lebanon and requested the repatriation of the above mentioned Lebanese individuals who illegally crossed the Blue Line and the technical fence towards Israel with the assistance of the Israeli army.

The Lebanese Army has also sent a letter to UNIFIL emphasizing that the Israeli manoeuvre, declared to start on 31 May 2009, should not violate resolution 1701 (2006). The letter also asked UNIFIL to ensure that the Israeli army will not undertake during the manoeuvre any action of an aggressive or provocative nature against Lebanon or threaten or violate Lebanon's sovereignty and territorial integrity, including its airspace.

The Lebanese Government wishes to reiterate its firm position condemning any violation of resolution 1701 (2006). The Lebanese authorities are actively cooperating with UNIFIL in ensuring peace and security in South Lebanon.

I wish to emphasize the gravity of Israel's actions, which add to the ongoing Israeli violations of Security Council resolution 1701 (2006). These violations include, among other things, daily overflights and incursions of Lebanese sovereignty and the occupation of the northern part of Al-Ghajar village, the Shab'a Farms and the Kafarshuba Hills.

In addition, the delayed submission by Israel of the strike locations of the unexploded ordnance, including the cluster bombs that it dropped and that landed indiscriminately in civilian areas, has caused since the cessation of hostilities the death and injury of about 340 people, 34 of whom were children.

I kindly request that the present letter be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 15 and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Dr. Nawaf **Salam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative